



Date: July 16, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending July 16, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending July 16, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

On July 10, the Mayor and several members of the City Council (including both City Councilmembers-elect) joined the City Manager's senior management team, department directors, staff, and members of the community at the City's Budget Summit II - Community Voices and Budget Choices workshop. The objective of the Budget Summit was to share with the community the Mayor and City Council's current efforts to address the City's budget challenges, as well as preview the City Manager's Proposed FY 05 Budget, which includes the Proposed Updated Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan. By disseminating specific information on the Budget to the community almost five weeks earlier than usual, the City hoped to enhance the community's understanding of, and input to, the City Council's ongoing budget deliberations.

Three separate sessions were designed to provide ample time to discuss financial management policy and direction from the City Council, share detailed information on services maintained and proposed reductions for FY 05, and receive feedback and answer questions from the community. The opening session featured comments from the Mayor highlighting the City's need for continued transparency and dialogue with the community, a report from Councilmember Laura Richardson regarding the ongoing efforts of the City Council's Budget Oversight Committee, a fiscal recovery perspective from the City Manager, an economic overview from the acting Director of Financial Management as well as a department-by-department overview of the Proposed FY 05 Budget by the Assistant City Manager and the Deputy City Managers.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

The second session featured six breakout sessions covering the spectrum of municipal services: Community Safety; Employee Impacts, Service Optimization and Resource Development; City Maintenance, Physical and Technological Infrastructure; Neighborhoods, Business and Healthy Communities; Arts, Recreation and Library Services; and Utility Operations. The breakout sessions provided an opportunity for community members to interact directly with department directors and ask their questions on a range of budgetary and services issues. Those questions not covered during the session were captured on comment cards, which will be summarized for the City Council.

The closing session brought key issues from the breakout sessions to the entire assemblage for discussion, and allowed for direct community members questions and answers with the City Manager. Councilmember Jackie Kell, also a member of the Budget Oversight Committee, provided closing comments underscoring the seriousness of the current fiscal situation, but reiterated her commitment to finding solutions with the community's ongoing input and support.

City Manager

The City of Long Beach, The Long Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Long Beach Sports Council and The Los Angeles Sports Council hosted the U.S. Olympic Team Swimming Trials from July 7 – 14. Hundreds of the top American swimmers competed for a chance to represent the US at the 2004 Olympic Games drawing record crowds to Long Beach. NBC covered the event, live on July 9 and 11 and taped on July 18. The event has generated hundreds of national and regional news articles and television clips.

FINA Men's Water Polo World League Superfinal will take place this weekend. The top six teams from the 2004 World League, including the U.S., will compete in this last tournament before the Olympic Games.

City departments provided support for the event.

City Manager

The Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force met on July 12 to continue developing strategies to combat youth and gang violence. City Manager Jerry Miller welcomed the 40-member group, complimented their dedication and ensured that City resources are committed to the process. The group elected Mike Gillette as Chair and Marc Rothenberg as Vice Chair. Representatives from the Press Telegram and Charter Communications shared their commitment to sending a citywide message to stop youth violence. VIP Records will also be a resource to help get the message out.

After the taskforce subdivided into action teams, (Media, Parenting, Youth Development, Youth Employment, Research and Development,) each team representative reported team objectives and next steps to the Task Force.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

City Manager

A Navy Memorial Dedication, with an estimated attendance of 500, was held on July 10 at Shoreline Park. The City's Public Works and Park, Recreation and Marine Departments were actively involved with the project and worked closely with the Friends of the Navy and the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association to make the dream of the Memorial a reality.

Harbor

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners, on July 12, voted unanimously, to adopt a \$450.8 million budget for the 2005 fiscal year. The spending plan is \$52.5 million or 13 percent more than the current budget because of increases in capital, environmental and security projects.

The budget sets aside \$260.7 million for capital outlays. Acting as an environmental steward, the Port will spend more than \$26 million on its Healthy Harbor initiative. To tighten security, the Port will spend about \$26 million on security staff, a video surveillance system, a command and control center, and an incident management system.

Operating revenues are expected to increase 3.9 percent to \$275.4 million. Port operations are not supported by taxes. The Port generates revenues for its operations and on-going development through leases and fees charged to terminals and shipping lines. Operating expenditures will increase 3.5 percent to \$190.1 million. With the elimination of five regular positions, total employment at the Port is set to decrease to the equivalent of 377 jobs. The Port budget next goes to the City Council for its review and approval.

Health and Human Services

A meeting with the Director of the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH, and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Director Jonathan Fielding, MD, MPH, was held on July 8 to discuss West Nile Virus prevention and outreach activities.

Fire

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) requested one Fire Department Strike Team from Long Beach to assist with a large brush fire burning in the Angeles National Forest along Highway 138 in northern Los Angeles County. A strike team consists of 5 engine companies and a battalion chief. Currently Engines 1, 3, 8, 9, 11 and Battalion 3 are deployed at the "Pine Incident." It is estimated that they may be needed for three-to-four days depending on fire and weather conditions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Public Works, Airport

The first of seven Saturday closures of the Airport's main runway occurred on July 10 and will continue for the next four consecutive Saturdays. The closures will resume again on September 11. During the closures, commercial aircraft will arrive and depart on the Airport's alternate Runway 25R, which runs east to west, between Carson Street and Wardlow Road. The project is on schedule. For additional information or to request a copy of the runway newsletter please call 570-2678.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Health and Human Services

The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee will hold a symposium to discuss universal preschool opportunities in Long Beach **tomorrow** from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Houssels Forum at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center at 2801 Atlantic Avenue. Local leaders in early childhood education will gather to discuss their perspectives on First 5 LA's Universal Preschool Master Plan and how child development centers and family child care programs in Long Beach may participate in the countywide effort to offer universal preschool to four-year-old children.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On **July 17**, community members will have the chance to experience the magic of the Long Beach Community Band at Drake Park. Families can bring picnic baskets and DEET mosquito repellant to the concert and enjoy the evening.

Fire, Marine Safety Division

On **July 23 and 24**, the Fire Department will host the 2004 California Surf Life Saving Association Western Regional Junior Lifeguard Competition. Over 2,000 Junior Lifeguard participants will compete in various events. Over 5,000 parents and spectators are anticipated for the event.

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

The Long Beach Housing Development Company and City staff will conduct a *First-time Homebuyer Seminar* on **July 24**, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Drake Park. Families learning how to become homeowners fill each eight-hour seminar. Interested parties should arrive at 8:30 to register.

New homeowners in Long Beach can attend a *Post-Homeownership Seminar* offered quarterly. This seminar helps homeowners "sustain the gain" of homeownership. It covers credit repair, foreclosure prevention, borrowing smart and using your home's equity. The next seminar is **July 31**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Bixby Park. Reserve space at this free seminar by calling 562-570-6855.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Harbor

Extreme Engineering, a Discovery Channel program on the world's most ambitious engineering projects, will feature the Port of Long Beach and a look at today's giant container terminals in a show scheduled to air at 9:00 p.m. on **July 28**. On Charter Cable in Long Beach, Discovery airs on Channel 59. An *Extreme Engineering* production team filmed at the Total Terminals International container terminal on Terminal Island – a 375-acre facility that is the Port's largest shipping terminal and one of the largest in the world. They also filmed aboard a Foss Maritime tug, the *Hanjin Washington* and the *OOCL Hamburg* container ships; and interviewed Port Executive Director Richard Steinke, Jacobsen port pilots and others.

Health and Human Services

The Medi-Cal Outreach Program will host a State-Certified Application Assistance (CAA) Training in Long Beach. The course will be held on **July 19** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on **July 20** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Miller Family Health Education Center located at 3820 Cherry Avenue.

This 12-hour course will provide information on comprehensive healthcare coverage programs available to pregnant women and children, eligibility requirements and eligibility screen applications. This course is designed for those that would like to become Certified Application Assistors. Call Susan Ton at 570-7970.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

In response to a recent increase in violent and gang-related crime, the West Division coordinated a crime suppression task force within the Anaheim Corridor and portions of South and East Divisions. The operation was designed to provide a suppressive and proactive presence within high crime areas and allow for rapid, effective and efficient response to crimes in progress. The operation resulted in 11 felony and 70 misdemeanor arrests. Officers issued 85 traffic citations, towed 16 vehicles, filed 32 reports and conducted nearly 200 field interviews. The task force was conducted July 8 through July 10.

During a citywide search warrant operation, Gang Detectives arrested a subject who is possibly responsible for as many as four homicides in Fresno, California. Seven guns were also seized during the operation.

Fire

Firefighters responded to a total of 1,234 emergency calls for service, 110 calls were for fires and 29 calls involved structures. The Fire Department also responded to 788 emergency medical calls; 526 required paramedics.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

In partnership with Mary Butler School, 19 trees were planted on 20th Street and Orange Avenue on July 12. Students from the Butler School Earth Club assisted in planting the trees and will water the trees daily for one year. This project is part of the ongoing efforts of the Butler School Community Neighborhood Code Enforcement Program.

Staff assisted residents in the Hellman and Central Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Areas with clean-ups on July 10. The two events were supported by more than 70 neighborhood volunteers and resulted in picking up enough trash to fill five dumpsters.

Seventh Street Community Police Center staff provided a workshop on personal safety tips to the Stevenson Elementary School Parent Leadership Class on July 13.

Health and Human Services Public, Health Bureau

A new program entitled *Healthy Active Long Beach* has been launched. Designed to educate low-income families and their health care providers about the importance of daily physical activity and proper nutrition such as eating five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables each day, the program promotes use of the USDA Food Stamp Program. For more information, contact Lara Turnbull at 570-4294.

On July 28, the new Internet-based immunization registry called the Los Angeles Immunization Network (LINK) will be up and running in Health clinics. LINK will simplify immunization record keeping.

Library Services

Over 90 people attended a Garden Party on July 9 to celebrate the refurbishment of the garden, patio and historic fountain at the Alamitos Neighborhood Library. The refurbishment was made possible by donations from Councilman Dan Baker and the Alamitos Beach Neighborhood Association. Storyteller Linda Whiteside entertained the audience with tales in English and Spanish.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The installation of the new wooden floor has been completed at California Recreation Center. Other improvements to the gymnasium continue with interior painting, lighting improvements and new backboards. A grand re-opening will be scheduled for mid-or-late August.

The construction of the Houghton Park Skate Park is 75 percent complete. The project is on schedule for an August completion.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Construction at Officer Daryle W. Black Memorial Park continues on schedule.

Revisions to the construction plans for the Cesar E. Chavez Park Amphitheater are underway and construction is expected to begin in September. The Family Aquatics facility, also at Cesar E. Chavez Park, is expected to begin construction bidding in July, with construction beginning in the fall.

Long Beach Energy, Construction/Engineering Bureau

During the last six months, the Bureau has completed 600 customer investigation requests for new gas service and approximately 6,000 requests for underground service alerts to identify buried natural gas pipelines.

Contracted construction began in the North Long Beach area to replace 17,000 feet of old gas main pipeline that will install 480 new services. This work should be completed in December 2004.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau

The Workforce Development Bureau's *CalWORK's Summer Youth Jobs Program* began on July 6. The Youth Jobs Program provides over 235 young people with 160 hours of paid basic skills remediation, work-readiness training and work experience. Upon completion, the youth work in non-profit organizations or public sector offices as receptionists, clerical assistants, mural arts assistants, maintenance aides, tutors, recreation aides, etc.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

During the week of July 13-16, the International Children's Traveling Theatre began its production of "Clean Up Your Act" with 170 people in attendance. The International City Theater in Long Beach is a professional theater group who partners with the department to make quality theater experience accessible for children and families. The two programs are: The Summer Youth Conservatory and the Traveling Children's Theater. The program offers the children an opportunity to experience instruction in acting, music, mime, and movement taught by industry professionals.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

A Shakespeare in the Park performance, with an estimated attendance of 300, was held on July 11 near the Aquarium.

Nationally recognized video artist Bill Viola's Studio, with a cast and crew of 27, shot a video on July 14-30, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park pool.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The Redevelopment Agency Board approved the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area Implementation Plan on July 12. The Implementation plan details revitalization efforts for the North Village Center, Atlantic Avenue between 56th Street and 59th Street, and the Historic Core, Long Beach Boulevard between 53rd Street and 55th Street.

Long Beach Energy, Construction/Engineering Bureau

Construction bid packages were issued on June 30 for the installation of a new 12-inch diameter pipeline to replace the old gas pipeline that crosses the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. Removal of the pipeline will help improve the restoration of the wetlands.

For the last few months, staff has been monitoring the gas pressure in the downtown area of Long Beach. This monitoring resulted in an increase in pressure, which has helped avoid the use of expensive, newer and larger diameter gas pipelines, and helps keep service costs low for downtown residents and businesses.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,175 service calls. This total included 978 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 448 Turn Offs. It also processed 634 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 115 meter-maintenance and billing related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 406 emergency phone calls that resulted in 105 emergency orders being sent out.

Public Works, Street Maintenance

Staff installed 210 sidewalk patches, repaired 257 potholes and trimmed 393 trees citywide.

Public Works, Airport

Airport staff provided the Airliners International Group with a tour of the airfield. Airliners International is a group of individuals in the aviation industry who collect and sell aviation collectibles. They were in Southern California for the 2004 Airliners International show, which was held in Los Angeles July 8-10.

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cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
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